

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 12632 140135Z

63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01 /060 W

----- 082745

R 130545Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4531

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T SAIGON 12632

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM CAN THO JULY 11 BEING
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

CAN THO 0562

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS/ OTRA MARR VS

SUBJECT: GENERAL WEYAND'S VISIT

1. GEN WEYAND JUST COMPLETED USEFUL TWO-HOUR VISIT TO
CAN THO INCLUDING A FORMAL BRIEFING BY IV CORPS STAFF AND
MORE RESTRICTED SESSION WITH GEN NGHI IN HIS OFFICE. I
ACCOMPANIED THROUGHOUT. VISIT IS MUCH APPRECIATED.

2. GEN WEYAND TOLD GEN NGHI HE HAD COME AT THE DIRECTION
OF SECDEF TO REVIEW THE SITUATION, MAKE SURE THE ARVN IS
GETTING THE SUPPLIES THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO GET, AND TO SEE
WHAT WE MIGHT DO AFTER AUGUST 15. HE SAID WE ARE DETERMINED
TO HELP ON TERMS CONSISTENT WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENTS.
GEN WEYAND ALSO MADE A HELPFUL PLUG TO KEEP THE CONGEN
INFORMED.

3. ACCOMPANYING STAFF TOOK DETAILED NOTES ON MATTERS
PRESENTED AT BRIEFING AND SUBSEQUENT RESTRICTED DISCUSSION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 12632 140135Z

I BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING MAJOR ITEMS ARE WORTHWHILE REPORTING.

(ALL EXCEPT ITEMS "A" AND "B" CAME UP IN THE RESTRICTED MEETING.)

(A) BRIEFING PRESENTED TOTAL ENEMY STRENGTH IN MR IV AS HAVING DECLINED FROM 58,500 IN EARLY 1973 TO 54,550 IN JUNE 1973.

(B) THE IV CORPS ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE ENEMY IS
(I) MAINTAINING A DECEPTIVELY CALM
(II) INTENSIFYING THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE,
(III) RESTING THEIR UNITS IN ORDER TO RESUME AGGRESSIVE
ACTION AT A FUTURE DATE WITH THE PATTERN OF OFFENSIVE ACTIVITIES
DEPENDING ON HOW THE SITUATION EVOLVES.

(C) IN THE RESTRICTED DISCUSSION, GEN NGHI PRESENTED
THE POSSIBLE OFFENSIVE THREAT FROM CAMBODIA AS COMING PRIMARILY
FROM THE 9-B AND 1ST NVA DIVISIONS WITH THE 5TH NVA DIVISION
NOW ORIENTED TOWARDS MR III. GEN NGHI WAS CONFIDENT THAT HE
COULD CONTAIN TAN ATTACK FROM THE CAMBODIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER,
POINTING OUT THAT HE NOW HAS HIS 9TH DIVISION AS WELL AS THE
RANGERS MOBILE AND IN CORPS RESERVE.

(D) IN RESPONSE TO GEN WEYAND'S QUESTION, GEN NGHI
SAID THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH TACTICAL AIR TO PROTECT MEKONG
RIVER CONVOYS TO PHNOM PENH WITHIN CAMBODIA IN THE ABSENCE OF
EFFECTIVE FRIENDLY FORCES ALONG THE RIVER BANKS INSIDE CAMBODIA
AND THE PRESENCE OF HOSTILE AA. MOREOVER WEATHER IS A FACTOR.
IV CORPS NOW HAS AN ALLOTMENT OF TWENTY SORTIES DAILY BUT
SOMETIMES CANNOT USE ALL OF THESE BECAUSE OF WEATER. GEN
NGHI SAID HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP WITH HELICOPTER GUN SHIPS.
IT WAS RECOGNIZED ALL AROUND THAT ANY SVN TROOPS IN CAMBODIA
WOULD INVOLVE A MAJOR POLICY DECISION.

(E) GEN NGHI REPORTED DESERTION RATES AS SUBSTANTIALLY
REDUCED IN JUNE. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE 7TH DIVISION DESERTIONS
DECLINED FROM 546 IN MAY TO 195 IN JUNE, AND IN THE 9TH DIVISION
FROM 676 TO 326 DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

(F) AS TO SUPPLY PROBLEMS, GEN NGHI SPECIFICALLY
MENTIONED -

(I) THE FUEL PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY DIESEL WHERE A 59 PERCENT
CUT HAS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, RESULTED IN STOPPING THE ARVN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SAIGON 12632 140135Z

ENGINEERING HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM,

(II) SHORTAGE OF 105 AND 155 MM GUN TUBES.
(ABOUT 35 TUBES ARE NOW BEING USED BEYOND THEIR NORMAL TIME.)
(III) SPARE PARTS FOR APC'S.

LEHMANN
UNQUOTE
APPLING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON12632
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS APPLING
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730735/aaaaazjr.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL WEYAND'S VISIT
TAGS: OTRA, MARR, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005